



# AN ANALYSIS OF LEXEMIC IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS IN *EATERNAL NOCTURNAL* WEBTOON

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## KEYWORDS

Idiomatic, Lexemic Idiomatic Expressions, Webtoon

## ABSTRACT

This research aims to determine the types and meanings of lexemic idiomatic expressions in the *Eternal Nocturnal* webtoon. This research used a qualitative method. The object of this research is the script of dialogues and narrations of the characters in *Eternal Nocturnal* webtoon, namely episode two to episode six. The researcher used data sheets and tables as instruments. The researcher identified and categorized each expression based on Makka'i's theory (1972) and using three dictionaries related to idioms, namely Farlex Dictionary of Idioms, Dictionary of American Idioms by McGraw-Hill's, and NCT's American Idioms Dictionary, then matched the meanings of lexemic idiomatic expressions from the dictionaries with the co-text contained in the dialogues or narrations of the characters to analyze the data. The results showed that there were six types of lexemic idiomatic expressions in the *Eternal Nocturnal* webtoon, namely Phrasal Verb idioms, Tournure idioms, Irreversible Binomial idioms, Phrasal Compound idioms, Incorporating Verb idioms, and Pseudo idioms. In determining the meaning must be based on the co-text because an idiom contains many meanings.

## KATA KUNCI

Idiomatik, Ungkapan-ungkapan Idiomatik Leksem, Webtun

## ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui jenis dan makna ungkapan idiomatik leksem dalam webtun *Eternal Nocturnal*. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif. Objek penelitian ini adalah naskah dialog dan narasi para tokoh dalam webtun *Eternal Nocturnal* yaitu episode dua sampai episode enam. Peneliti menggunakan lembar data dan tabel sebagai instrumen. Peneliti mengidentifikasi dan mengkategorikan masing-masing ungkapan berdasarkan teori Makkai (1972) dan menggunakan tiga kamus yang berkaitan dengan idiom, yaitu *Farlex Dictionary of Idioms*, *Dictionary of American Idioms by McGraw-Hill's*, dan *NCT's American Idioms Dictionary*, kemudian mencocokkan makna ungkapan-ungkapan idiomatik leksem dari kamus dengan konteks yang terdapat dalam dialog atau narasi tokoh untuk menganalisis data. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat enam jenis ekspresi idiomatik leksem dalam webtun *Eternal Nocturnal*, yaitu idiom *Phrasal Verb*, idiom *Tournure*, idiom *Irreversible Binomial*, idiom *Phrasal Compound*, idiom *Incorporating Verb*, dan idiom *Pseudo*. Dalam menentukan makna harus didasarkan pada konteks karena sebuah idiom mengandung banyak makna.

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## INTRODUCTION

English has many ways to convey messages, one of them is by using idioms. Idioms are often used in everyday conversation. Chaer (2002: 289) said that idiom is an utterance in which the meaning is not predicted by its constituent in lexical and grammatical pattern. Lexical patterns are patterns of word meanings in the dictionary. In contrast, the grammatical pattern is a pattern of word meanings that have undergone a grammaticalization process in the form of adding affixes, repeating words, or compounding words so that a new meaning is formed from a basic word. In addition, Butarbutar, E. S., Sinurat, B., Herman, & Purba, L. (2020:2); Sinaga, D. A., Herman,

Hutahean, D. T., & Niswa, K. (2020) idiom is a combination of words that has different meaning from its actual meaning to form new meaning that does not exist in the mother tongue. Added by O'Dell & McCarthy as cited by Rosalia, S., Noerazizah, S., & Anggraeni, A (2018) stated idiom is a combination of several words and the meaning cannot be translated word by word. Based on some previous meanings of idiom can be concluded that idiom is an expression that has meaning that is not real meaning and cannot be interpreted word for word. According to Fernando in Abdi & Munandar (2019), the characteristics of idioms are complex, grouping, and semantic difficulties. The uses of idiom are to make words or phrases more varied. According to Dixon as cited in Saberian & Fotovatnia (2011) stated, "idioms are essential to successful communication, whether in listening, speaking, reading, or writing". Idioms are used to express meaning in different ways. Mastery of idioms is related to proficiency in speaking English. Idiom can add another variety to a language and also can be a benchmark for someone's proficiency in English because idiom is the original language of the target language. It shows the importance of mastering idiomatic expressions. The consequence if there is a lack of understanding of idiomatic expressions is a misunderstanding in communication and that can lead to ambiguity.

In learning the language, we must also study the culture. Idiomatic expression related to culture in learning English. Although idiom is a part of the English language, in reality, there are still many second language learners who do not understand idiom because they are still very rarely exposed to idiom. This happens because idiom is never taught and even introduced in English study program classes. Moreover, there is a social phenomenon that many people apply English in daily life conversations. It is starting from only being able to pronounce some English vocabularies mixed with sentences in Indonesian or commonly called code-switching, as well as fully English sentence expressions. It is possible that there is idiom in a conversation. In addition, the popularity of English movies, English songs, English literature, comics, YouTube, and content in English that contains a lot of idiomatic expressions can be an urgent consideration to introduce idiomatic expression in the realm of education.

Unfortunately, it is difficult for people to understand idioms because lack of vocabulary mastery, a lack of understanding of the language so that people don't know there are many variations of language, one of which is idioms, then a lack of communication with people who are proficient in English. Hence, they only get a little information about idioms.

However, no problem has no solution. To understand idioms, people need to practice diligently, both by listening and reading and then trying to find out the meaning in the idiom dictionary. No less important, in finding the meaning of idioms, it is necessary to understand the co-text of the situation in which idioms are used because one idiom contains many meanings. The meaning of the idiom is significantly influenced by the co-text. In addition, idioms should be introduced to students along with other aspects of learning English, such as grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and others, so that students can recognize idioms as early as possible. To make it easier to understand idioms, idioms are divided into several classifications. Makkai in Arsiyandi & Suhendar (2020) stated that idioms are divided into two classifications are sememic idioms and lexemic idioms. With lots of practice, idiom expressions will be easier to understand.

Based on O'Dell as cited in Zaid (2019) said "idioms will often be found in English fiction, newspaper, magazine, comic, TV show, movie, and song". The development of digital technology brings a pretty good influence on comic lovers. Digital technology has been used to create an application and a web for reading and creating online comics known as webtoon. Webtoon is a combination of the word 'web' and 'cartoon' which means cartoons or comics that can be enjoyed online in an application or a website. Webtoon was made in South Korea and was created in 2004 by Kim Jun Koo and launched by a technology company, LINE Corporation with NAVER Corporation (Fatimah, 2018). There are four elements in the format and function of creating a webtoon based on Jang & Song, 2017, namely vertical scrolling and presenting sequences, nonlinear story-telling, interactive motion, and sound. The relationship between webtoon and education is that webtoon media can increase students' language learning motivation. Reading webtoons can make it easier for students to explore the intellectual side, and comics contain story appeals and narrative elements that can be accepted easily (Budiarti & Haryanto, 2016; Bowkett & Hitcman, 2012). This research is important to do with the hope that it can become a reference and new knowledge for second language learners in understanding idioms because this research it covers the types and the meanings of idiom usage situations.

## **METHODS**

### **Participants / Subject / Population and Sample (Level 2)**

This research used qualitative research design. Qualitative research is research used to understand social phenomena and the situation of the object of research. In addition, Sugiyono as cited in Aziz K., Kustiono., & Lestari, W. (2019) said qualitative is used to describe the findings after interviews, observations and documentation studies. The researchers used qualitative to describe data after the documentation studies. The objects of this research were lexemic idiomatic expressions used in five episodes of the *Eternal Nocturnal* webtoon, namely: *Ep. 2 - A Disagreeable Face*, *Ep. 3 - Chances*, *Ep. 4 - Beautiful Dreamer*, *Ep. 5 - The Dreamer Eater*, and *Ep. 6 - Delivery Boy*. The researchers chose only to examine five episodes of the *Eternal Nocturnal* webtoon because based on preliminary investigation, in those episodes the most lexemic idiomatic expressions were found.

### **Instruments (Level 2)**

In collecting the data, the researchers used documentation study as the instrument such as notes and data tables. This instrument allows the researchers to obtain data through research on written objects, namely webtoon. To collect the data, the researchers used the following steps: (1) Searching the *Eternal Nocturnal* in webtoon, (2) Reading one by one of five episodes carefully, and (3) Coding the lexemic idioms found in the *Eternal Nocturnal* webtoon.

### **Data Analysis Procedures (Level 2)**

After collecting the data, the researchers used content analysis method to analyze the data. Content analysis is a research method that interprets the contents of a written or

printed text in the mass media. The data analysis was done by doing five steps of processing the data. (1) Identifying the lexemic idiomatic expressions found in the webtoon, (2) Classifying the types of lexemic idiomatic expressions based on Makkai's theory (1972). The researchers chose Makkai's theory to analyze idioms because the types of idioms from this theory analyze the structure of short sentences in the form of word classes. Thus, this theory is suitable for researching webtoons since the conversations in the webtoon are in the form of short sentence structures, (3) Analyzing the lexemic idiomatic expressions found in the webtoon, (4) Finding the meaning of each lexemic idiomatic expression, the researchers used three dictionaries of idiom; those were Farlex Dictionary of Idioms, Dictionary of American Idioms by McGraw-Hill's, and NCT's American Idioms Dictionary. The researchers determined the meaning of each lexemic idiomatic expression in terms of dialogues or narrations of the characters to be adjusted to the co-text so that the meanings obtained were more accurate, and (5) Drawing conclusions from the analysis.

The researchers listed the types and the meanings of lexemic idiomatic expressions in *Eaternal Nocturnal* webtoon were found. The table such as:

Table 1: The Types and Meanings of Lexemic Idiomatic Expressions

No	Expressions	Types	Meanings
1	...	...	...
2	...	...	...
...	...	...	...

## FINDINGS

### The Types of Lexemic Idiomatic Expressions

#### A. Phrasal Verb Idiom

Phrasal Verb Idiom is an idiom that consists of a combination of a verb + an adverb or a combination of a verb + a preposition. An example of Phrasal Verb idiom, namely make up because that expression consists of the verb 'make' + the adverb 'up'.

#### B. Tournure Idiom

Tournure idiom is an idiom that consists of three words. An example of Tournure idiom, namely, take the time because that expression consists of three words (take, the, time) and contains the definite article 'the' in the phrase.

#### C. Irreversible Binomial Idiom

Irreversible Binomial idiom is an idiom that consists of a group of words that are separated by a conjunction. An example of Irreversible Binomial idioms, namely come and go because that expression consists of a group of words (verbs) and separated by a conjunction, namely the verb 'come' plus the conjunction 'and' then followed by the verb 'go'.

#### D. Phrasal Compound Idiom

Phrasal Compound idiom is an idiom that consists of several nouns. An example of Phrasal Compound idioms, namely *footage* because the term *footage* has two original words, namely the noun 'foot' and the noun 'age'. Noun + noun.

E. Incorporating Verb Idiom

Incorporating Verb idiom is an idiom that consists of a class of word or two class of words and are usually separated by (-). An example of Incorporating Verb idioms, namely *ghost-singer* because that expression consists of a class of words (nouns) and separated by (-), namely the noun 'ghost' plus (-) then followed by the noun "singer".

F. Pseudo Idioms

Pseudo idioms can misinform and confuse listeners or readers if they don't pay attention carefully. An example of the realizations of pseudo idioms, namely *resting bitch face* because that expression can confuse and misinform readers. At first glance, readers will think that *resting bitch face* refers to a woman who looks unpleasant.

### **The Meanings of Lexemic Idiomatic Expressions**

A. Phrasal Verb Idiom (make up)

Eve: *"Though, it would have been nice if I got a few more hours in to make up for all the lack of sleep"*

The meaning of expression 'make up' is to do something that one has failed to do in the past. It means that because it was followed by the phrase "the lack of sleep" which stated that Eve often had trouble sleeping. So, co-textually the speaker expected to be able to sleep a few more hours to fix for her messy sleeping hours.

B. Tournure Idiom (take the time)

Cherri: *"Thanks for taking the time to meet up"*

The meaning of expression 'take the time' is to make an effort to spend enough time on something to do. It means that because it was followed by the phrase "to meet up" which stated that Eve came to meet Cherri. So, co-textually the speaker expressed her gratitude to Eve for giving her time.

C. Irreversible Binomial Idiom (come and go)

Dae: *"I can come and go as I please. I like the freedom"*

The meaning of expression 'come and go' is to appear and then disappear quickly or suddenly. It means that because it was followed by the dialogue "I like the freedom" which stated that Dae did not like to be restrained because he can come and go at will. So, co-textually the speaker stated that he could be free to do whatever he wanted.

D. Phrasal Compound Idiom (footage)

Cherri: *"Oh, no! You are not in the footage at all! See? But you can hear your singing in the background"*

The meaning of expression 'footage' is material in recorded video. It means that because it was followed by the phrase "But you can hear your singing in the background" which stated that Cherri said to Eve was not even recorded in the video, the video only recorded sound. So, co-textually the speaker reassured Eve because the video that Cherri took only recorded their voices without recording their faces.

E. Incorporating Verb Idiom (ghost-singer)

Eve: *"Well, look on the bright side. I will probably have more time to focus on myself with this 'ghost-singer' job"*

The meaning of expression 'ghost-singer' is to replace or fill in the voice of a character. Ghost-singer means to replace or fill in the voice of a character because in the context of the story, the narration talked about Eve tried to accept Cherri's offer to lend her voice to Cherri to become a shadow singer.

F. Pseudo Idiom (Resting bitch face)

Eve: "Apparently, I have what people call a resting bitch face. Which is ironic because there's no signs of rest on this bitch face. Jokes aside, chronic insomnia is the real culprit here"

The meaning of expression 'resting bitch face' is a perpetually angry or sullen look on one's face. Resting bitch face means a perpetually angry or sullen look on one's face because it was followed by the dialogue "Which is ironic because there's no signs of rest on this bitch face. Jokes aside, chronic insomnia is the real culprit here" which stated that Eve was sad because her chronic insomnia could make her appearance look chaotic and she even received many complaints about her appearance. So, co-textually the speaker stated because of her resting bitch face, people assumed that she was angry but actually not angry at all.

## DISCUSSION

The data of this research were taken from the *Eternal Nocturnal* webtoon from episode two to six. The total number of lexemic idiomatic expressions found were forty-two times. In one episode of *Eternal Nocturnal* webtoon episodes two to six consist of forty to fifty boxes. Therefore, the researchers assessed that *Eternal Nocturnal* webtoon contained quite a lot of lexemic idiomatic expressions. So that this webtoon can be used as a medium to introduce idioms to second language learners because this webtoon is considered easier for readers to understand and accept.

In this webtoon, Phrasal Verb Idioms were the most common types found. The researchers assumed this happened because the author of the *Eternal Nocturnal* webtoon is a native English. According to Thyab (2019) stated, "native English speakers are found to use phrasal verbs on a daily basis and cannot do without the use of phrasal verbs in everyday communicative situations". Native English speakers are used to using phrasal verbs in their daily life spontaneously because they grew up in an environment where they used to use phrasal verbs instead of the original verbs that became synonyms. Based on Rozikin, A. K., Kasmairi, & Lubis, A. A. (2021:605) Phrasal Verb idioms are usually found more often than other idiomatic types because Phrasal Verb is categorized into fixed statements. A fixed statement is a language that is managed automatically by the memory of the brain and is often used in everyday life.

On the other hand, the least lexemic idiomatic expressions found in this webtoon were Pseudo Idioms. The researchers assumed this happened because Pseudo idioms were not in accordance with the target readers. Since the object of research being investigated was a webtoon with a romantic genre, the use of Pseudo idioms was somewhat inappropriate because most of the readers of this webtoon were teenagers.

The finding of this research was similar to Syarif (2020) who found types and meanings of lexemic idiomatic expressions by using Makkai's (1972) theory. The similarities between this research and Syarif's research were both used Makkai's theory (1972) to classify the types of lexemic idiomatic expressions and both found Phrasal Verb idioms as the most common type of lexemic idiomatic expression. However, the differences

were this research found six types while Syarif's research only found five types; Pseudo idiom could not be found by Syarif during the analysis. Next, the object used in this research was a webtoon, while her research used a film.

Next, the finding of this research was similar to Rosyada (2019). Rosyada's research found six types of lexemic idiomatic expressions. The most commonly found was Irreversible Binomial while the least found was Pseudo idiom. The similarities between this research and Rosyada's research were both used Makkai's theory (1972) to classify the types of lexemic idiomatic expressions and both found six types of lexemic idiomatic expressions. The difference was that the dominant lexemic idiomatic expression in this research was phrasal verb idioms while in Rosyada's research was irreversible binomial idioms. The difference in findings between this research and Rosyada's was due to the different types of texts. Her research used song lyrics while this research used a webtoon script. The lyrics of the songs investigated in Rosyada's research were the songs in the album "American Idiot" by Green Day. In addition, the difference was due to the artistic needs in song lyrics.

The finding of this research was in contrast with the previous research from Wisudawanto (2020:4). Wisudawanto's research used Bakker's theory (1992) about the strategies of translation idioms. The theory divided translation strategies into four, namely, Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning and Form, Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning and Dissimilar Form, Translation by Paraphrasing, and Translation by Omission. The finding of the research there were four strategies used by the translator in translating idioms. The most dominant translation strategy used in the comic Garfield Goes was Translation by Paraphrasing. The similarity between this research and Wisudawanto's research was both used comics as objects of the research. The differences between this research with Wisudawanto's research were this research used Makkai's theory (1972) and focused on finding out types, meanings, and realizations of lexemic idiomatic expressions, while Wisudawanto's research was used Bakker's theory (1992) and focused on identifying translation strategies in translating the idiomatic expression in comic Garfield Goes.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

Based on the finding and data analysis, this research has answered the research questions presented in the previous chapter, and it can be concluded that:

First, from the data findings, the five episodes in the *Eternal Nocturnal* webtoon contain the six types of lexemic idiomatic expressions according to Makkai's theory (1972). In this research, it was found that almost every type of lexemic idiomatic expression appeared several times. Most of the lexemic idiomatic expressions were Phrasal Verb idioms. On the other hand, the least found were Pseudo idioms.

Second, in determining the meaning of lexemic idiomatic expressions, the researchers found several meanings in an idiom. Therefore, to interpret an idiom, it must be based on the co-text of the utterances.

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